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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,344	03/26/2004	Jasna Roeth	LEAP:132US	1555
24041	7590	03/31/2006	EXAMINER	
SIMPSON & SIMPSON, PLLC 5555 MAIN STREET WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221-5406				PRITCHETT, JOSHUA L
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2872	

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/811,344	ROETH ET AL. <i>(initials)</i>
	Examiner Joshua L. Pritchett	Art Unit 2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1,16 and 18-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 2-15 and 17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 9,10 and 12-15 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to Amendment filed March 13, 2006. Claim 2 has been amended as requested by the applicant.

Claim Objections

Claims 9, 10 and 12-15 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claims 9 and 12, claims 9 and 12 depend from claim 2 and state that the means for moving the object holder include a loop and pulley system, but claim 2 requires the means for moving the object holder comprise a rack and pinion type moving system.

The remaining claims depend from claims 9 and 12 and inherit the deficiencies thereof.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-7 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hodgson (US 4,911,543) in view of Takeuchi (US 6,313,945).

Regarding claim 2, Hodgson teaches a microscope with at least one ocular and at least one objective and a microscope stage (abstract) the microscope stage having a planar surface (Fig. 2) comprising means for attachment to a frame (124) of the microscope so that the planar surface (30) is essentially perpendicular to an optical path (40) through a center of the objective lens (Fig. 2) and an object holder (32) for holding an object for examination by the microscope (Fig. 2) means for moving the object holder relative to the optical path so that a held specimen moves in a direction parallel or coincident with the optical path the means comprising at least one rotatable focusing knob (171) attached to a pinion to move a rack that moves the stage in the z-direction (col. 29 lines 13-17) and means for moving the object holder in the x or y-direction perpendicular to the z-direction so that a held specimen moves through the optical path parallel to the planar surface (col. 25 lines 45-52) the means for moving the holder comprising a first control knob (200) mounted so as to intersect a rotational axis of the rotatable focusing knob of the microscope (Fig. 2), when the optical path passes through a center of a specimen holding area of the object holder (Fig. 2). Hodgson lacks reference to the x and y control knobs being coaxial. Takeuchi teaches the use of coaxial x and y control knobs (40 and 50; Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the Hodgson x and y movement devices with the Takeuchi x and y movement assembly for the purpose of single hand manipulation of the x and y movement stage (Takeuchi col. 1 lines 38-41).

Regarding claim 3, Hodgson teaches means for attachment comprising a mounting bracket between the frame and the stage with attachment screws (126; Fig. 2; col. 20 lines 1-4).

Regarding claim 4, Hodgson teaches means for moving the object holder comprises a means for moving the entire stage (Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 5, Hodgson teaches the means for moving the object holder comprises a pinion rotatably attached to the stage that engages with a rack rigidly attached to the frame so that rotation of the pinion moves the stage relative to the frame (col. 29 lines 13-17).

Regarding claim 6, Hodgson teaches the rack is rigidly attached to the frame by means of the mounting bracket (Fig. 2; col. 29 lines 13-17).

Regarding claim 7, Hodgson teaches the control knob is attached to the pinion so that rotation of the control knob rotates the pinion to move the stage (col. 29 lines 13-17).

Regarding claim 17, Hodgson teaches stereo oculars and the rotational axis of the focusing knob is parallel to a line through the center of the oculars (col. 19 lines 10-20).

Claims 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hodgson (US 4,911,543) in view of Takeuchi (US 6,313,945) as applied to claim 2 above further in view of Aihara (US 5,906,148).

Regarding claims 8-13 and 15, Hodgson in combination with Takeuchi teaches the invention as claimed but lacks reference to pulleys and moving the object holder relative to the stage. Aihara teaches moving the object holder relative to the stage (col. 3 lines 23-30). Aihara further teaches means for moving the object holder comprise a belt loop (431) attached to the object holder that passes around pulleys rotatably mounted to the stage wherein the cable

attachment to the object holder is located between the pulleys (Fig. 3). Aihara further teaches the control knob is attached to one of the pulleys so that rotation of the control knob (43E) rotates the pulley to move the belt attached object holder relative to the planar surface (Fig. 3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Hodgson use the pulleys and move the object holder relative to the microscope stage as taught by Aihara for the purpose of minimizing movement along other axes (Aihara col. 4 lines 41-43) for more precise placement of the specimen.

Regarding claim 14, Hodgson teaches the first control knob rotates the pinion so as to move the stage in a direction perpendicular to the rotation axis of the focusing knob (col. 29 lines 13-17; Fig. 2).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed March 13, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the objection to claims 9 and 12 should be withdrawn because claim 2 does not restrict the means for movement to a rack and pinion system in the x and y directions. Claim 2 states the means for moving an object holder attached to a pinion to move a rack in the z-direction. Claims 9 and 12 state the means for moving the object holder comprise a belt and loop with a pulley. There is no limitation in claims 9 and 12 to require the loop and pulley assembly only in the x and y direction. The examiner suggests including a limitation in claims 9 and 12 to restrict the loop and pulley assembly to the x and y directions.

Applicant's arguments, see Amendment, filed March 13, 2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 2 under Hodgson have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Takeuchi. The newly added limitations requiring the control knobs be coaxial was not taught by Hodgson, however Takeuchi teaches the claimed coaxial relation between the control knobs.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2872

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua L. Pritchett whose telephone number is 571-272-2318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew A. Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JLP W



**DREW A. DUNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**